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COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Wittenberg

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 31 July 1953

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED]
1. Between 23 and 26 June 1953, the installation in Apollensdorf [REDACTED] was occupied by about 1,200 engineers. Fifty trucks, [REDACTED] and 25 factory [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM
- [REDACTED] new trucks [REDACTED] were seen in the woods east of the installation. At about 10:30 p.m. on 23 June, about 10 trucks were loaded with pontoons, and boards and beams were hauled to the Elbe River. The engineers constructed two pontoon bridges within 1 hour, and later dismantled the bridges and left toward Apollensdorf. ¹
2. Between 9 and 13 July, the Beseler Kaserne, Wittenberg, was occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. At 1:30 p.m. on 10 July, about 20 T-34/85 tanks were seen in an open shed. Trucks [REDACTED] each occupied by about 20 troops, were seen leaving the installation toward Teuchel. ² Motor vehicles [REDACTED] were seen en route to the installation. ² 50X1-HUM
3. Prior to 12 July, the Tauentzien Kaserne was vacant. On 12 July, the installation was occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 13 July, 12 soldiers cleaned four T-34/85 tanks. At about 6 p.m., trucks [REDACTED] each occupied by 8 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, left the installation toward the town. ³ 50X1-HUM
4. At 4:30 p.m. on 12 July, 19 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] 3 six-wheel machine gun carriers, 4 BA-64 armored scout cars and 10 to 12 trucks were detained in Wittenberg and left for the Floß Kaserne. Other unloadings involving tanks and motor vehicles took place during the night on 12 July. ⁴ 50X1-HUM

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5.

Troops and materiel from the Beseler Kaserne entrained on 16 July included:

10 JS-3 tanks [redacted] truck [redacted] towing a field kitchen, truck [redacted] and armored personnel carrier [redacted] at 6:30 a.m.;

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14 T-34/85 tanks [redacted]

[redacted] 12 trucks [redacted] the latter towing a field kitchen; and others of the / 3-05-xx series; and undetermined materiel or troops on 7 boxcars. at 10 a.m.: 10 T-34/85 tanks [redacted]

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[redacted] 1 tank chassis, 4 trucks of the [redacted] towing 76.2-mm field guns; and an undetermined number of trucks [redacted]

[redacted] at 12:30 p.m. Motor vehicle [redacted] was seen at the loading ramp. 2

6.

At about 10 a.m. on 16 July, an exercise was held on the Elbe River south of Die Wendel. A T-43 tank crossed the river from north to south on a three-pontoon ferry, which was towed by a motorboat. The tank was occupied by about 10 soldiers armed with carbines and the ferry by about 15 soldiers. The ferry, after 10 minutes, returned to the north bank, carrying T-43 tank [redacted] with 15 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets and 10 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. At about 10:30 a.m., an assault boat and 2 pneumatic rafts, each occupied by about 20 troops crossed the river from north to south. Six T-43 tanks, 12 trucks and 1 crane truck were in the meadows north of the river. The area was sealed off in a distance of about 200 meters. Beams were unloaded from the trucks. Two platoons each of 80 soldiers, including 75 percent wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 25 percent wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia, were seen 1 km east of Die Wendel, marching toward Wittenberg on Highway No 187.

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7.

At noon on 12 July, 5 T-43 tanks [redacted] and materiel and equipment were detrained at the Wittenberg freight station and were hauled to the Flak Kaserne by trucks [redacted]. At 3 p.m., 20 T-43 tanks [redacted]

[redacted] armored personnel carriers [redacted] armored scout cars [redacted] about 30 motor vehicles, [redacted]

[redacted] and 15 sidecar motorcycles arrived from the direction of Jueterbog and were detrained. At 11:30 p.m., 20 T-43 tanks [redacted] which arrived from the direction of Jueterbog, were detrained.⁴ At 4 p.m. on 16 July, T 43 tanks [redacted]

[redacted]; 3 armored scout cars [redacted] 2 armored personnel carriers [redacted] and motor vehicles [redacted]

[redacted] were entrained at the freight station and left toward Jueterbog at 11 a.m. At 11:30 a.m., T-43 tanks [redacted]

[redacted] motor vehicles with the changed numbers [redacted]

[redacted] and 350 to 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank or signal insignia from the [redacted]

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Beseler Kaserne were entrained and, at 4 p.m., left toward Jueterbog.² On 18 July, the Tauntzien Kaserne was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia. T-43 tanks [redacted] were identified. Motor vehicles seen en route to the installation [redacted]

[redacted] Formation drill was observed in the installation.³

8. On 18 July, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. T-43 tanks [redacted] JS-2 tanks [redacted] SU-249 guns [redacted] armored personnel carrier [redacted] and motor vehicles [redacted] were observed.²

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9. On 18 July, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Individual training and training at squad level were observed. Motor vehicles seen en route to the installation [redacted]

[redacted] ⁴ The Arado installation was occupied by about 240 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. T-43 tanks [redacted] and 1 SP gun [redacted]

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10. On 18 July, the installation in Apollensdorf was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal and motor transport insignia. Training at squad level and engineer training were observed. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen en route to the installation.¹

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1. Comment. [redacted] the 35th Engr Regt [redacted] of the Third Gds Mecz Army was in the Apollensdorf training area until 7 July and a bridge construction across the Elbe River took 2 hours.

2. Comment. Between 18 June and 16 July, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by major elements of the 51st Gds Tank Regt and the 78th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt stationed there. A heavy tank company of the 78th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt was retransferred to Jueterbog on 9 July. Paragraphs 5 and 7 of the present report indicate that another heavy tank company of this regiment and a medium tank battalion of the 51st Gds Tank Regt were entrained on 16 July and [redacted] were retransferred to Jueterbog [redacted]

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[redacted] The 800 troops which, according to information in paragraph 8 were in the installation on 18 July, in addition to some tanks of the two regiments, may have belonged to the 286th Gds AAA Regt.

3. Comment. The 3d Gds Mtrcl Bn, after its employment in the Dessau area, arrived in the Tauntzien Kaserne on 25 June, coming from Camp Gross Kuehnau, and, according to information in paragraphs 3 and 7 of the present report, was still at the installation on 18 July. [redacted] The 120th (?) Gds Engr Bn which, on 16 July, engaged in the river crossing practice mentioned in paragraph 6, is also carried in the Tauntzien Kaserne.

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4. Comment. Prior to 9 July, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by major elements of the 52d Gds Tank Regt which, returned to Jueterbog on 9 and 10 July. On 12 July, however, 5 trains went from Jueterbog to Wittenberg and, according to information in paragraphs 7 and 4, carried two medium tank battalions of the 53d Gds Tank Regt and elements of the 3d Gds Mtrcl Bn respectively, which went to the Flak Kaserne. It cannot be determined whether these movements were made in connection with security measures because of future demonstrations or in connection with the engineer exercises.

5. Comment. the Arado installation is occupied as previously by the unidentified tank training battalion.

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6.

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